What is claimed is:

1. A searching system for searching contents that were broadcast, the searching system having an inputting unit, a searching unit, and a terminal unit,

wherein the inputting unit comprises:

first storing means for storing information representing at least time at which contents were broadcast corresponding to a predetermined operation; and

first communicating means for transmitting the information representing time stored in said storing means to an external unit,

wherein the searching unit comprises:

second storing means for correlatively storing information representing contents and broadcast time thereof; and

searching means for searching information representing the contents stored in said second storing means corresponding to the information representing time, and

wherein the terminal unit comprises:

second communicating means for receiving the information representing time transmitted from the inputting unit through said first communicating means;

third communicating means for transmitting the information representing time received by said second communicating means and receiving search results

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transmitted from the searching unit; and

first displaying means for displaying the information representing time received by said second communicating means and the search results by the searching unit.

2. The searching system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

3. The searching system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the searching unit transmits the information representing the contents (referred to as first contents) that were broadcast at the time represented by the information representing time and information representing contents (referred to as second contents) that were broadcast earlier than those and as the search results to the terminal unit corresponding to the information representing time, the amount of second contents being a multiple of the amount of the first contents.

4. The searching system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein when a predetermined operation is performed with the terminal unit corresponding to the search results obtained by said searching means and displayed on said first displaying means, the terminal

unit is accessed to a site at which the contents as the search results is purchasable.

5. The searching system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein when the information representing time is received by said second communicating means, the transmission of the information representing time from the inputting unit to the terminal unit is virtually displayed.

6. The searching system as set forth in claim 5,

wherein the inputting unit further comprises:

second displaying means for displaying entries of information representing time stored in said first storing means, and

wherein when the information representing time is received by said second communicating means, the virtual display of said first displaying means of the terminal unit is correlated with the display of the entries of the information representing time displayed on said second displaying means of the inputting unit.

7. The searching system as set forth in claim 6,

wherein when the number of entries of the information representing time displayed on said second displaying means decreases, the number of entries of the information representing time displayed on said

first displaying means increases.

8. The searching system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the terminal unit is an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit.

9. The searching system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the terminal unit is composed of a personal computer.

10. The searching system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the contents are a musical piece.

11. The searching system as set forth in claim 10,

wherein the terminal unit further comprises:

audio reproducing means for reproducing audio data, and

wherein when a predetermined operation is performed with the terminal unit corresponding to the search results searched by said searching means and displayed on said first displaying means, audio data corresponding to a musical piece as the search results is requested to the searching unit and the audio data transmitted from the searching unit is reproduced by said audio reproducing means.

12. The searching system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the contents are commodity information.

13. The searching system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the searching unit further comprises:

interface means for allowing information representing the contents stored in said second storing means and/or broadcast time of the contents to be changed from an external unit that has been properly filtered.

14. The searching system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the inputting unit further comprises:

program storing means for storing a control program that controls the inputting unit, and

wherein the control program is transmitted from the terminal unit to the inputting unit by said first communicating means and said second communicating means and stored to said program storing means.

15. The searching system as set forth in claim 14,

wherein the control program is transmitted from the searching unit to the terminal unit by said third communicating means and then transmitted from the terminal unit to the inputting unit.

16. The searching system as set forth in claim 14,

wherein the terminal unit further comprises:

connecting means for connecting the terminal unit to a predetermined network, and

wherein the control program is transmitted to the terminal unit through the predetermined network connected to the terminal unit and then transmitted from the terminal unit to the inputting unit by said connecting means.

17. The searching system as set forth in claim 14,

wherein the terminal unit further comprises:

reading means for reading data recorded on a predetermined record medium, and

wherein the control program is read from the record medium by said reading means and transmitted to said inputting unit.

18. A terminal unit for causing contents that were broadcast to be searched, comprising:

first communicating means for receiving time information representing predetermined time from an inputting unit and transmitting the information representing the predetermined time to an external unit;

second communicating means for transmitting the information representing the predetermined time received from said first communicating means to a searching unit and receiving search results from the

searching unit, the searching unit searching
information representing contents from a storing means
corresponding to the information representing the
predetermined time, the storing means correlatively

5   storing the information representing the contents and
broadcast time thereof; and

displaying means for displaying the
information representing the predetermined time
received by said first communicating means and the

10   search results of the searching unit.

19.   The terminal unit as set forth in claim
18,

wherein the information representing the
contents includes information about the contents.

15   20.   The terminal unit as set forth in claim
18,

wherein said displaying means displays the
information representing the contents (referred to as
first contents) that were broadcast at the time

20   represented by the information representing the
predetermined time and information representing
contents (referred to as second contents) that were
broadcast earlier than those and as the search results
corresponding to the information representing the

25   predetermined time, the amount of second contents being
a multiple of the amount of the first contents.

21.   The terminal unit as set forth in claim

18,

wherein when a predetermined operation is performed with the terminal unit corresponding to the search results obtained by said searching means and displayed on said displaying means, the terminal unit is accessed to a site at which the contents as the search results is purchasable.

22. The terminal unit as set forth in claim 18,

wherein when the information representing the predetermined time is received from the inputting unit, said displaying means virtually displays the transmission of the information representing the predetermined time from the inputting unit to the terminal unit.

23. The terminal unit as set forth in claim 22,

wherein when the information representing the predetermined time is received from the inputting unit, the virtual display of said displaying means of the terminal unit is correlated with the display of the entries of the information representing the predetermined time displayed on a second displaying means that the inputting unit has.

24. The terminal unit as set forth in claim 23,

wherein when the number of entries of the

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information representing the predetermined time
displayed on said second displaying means decreases,
the number of entries of the information representing
the predetermined time displayed on said first

5   displaying means increases.

25.   The terminal unit as set forth in claim
18,

wherein the terminal unit is an information
terminal unit that is installed as a public unit.

10   26. The terminal unit as set forth in claim
18,

wherein the terminal unit is composed of a
personal computer.

27.   The terminal unit as set forth in claim

15   18,

wherein the contents are a musical piece,
wherein the terminal unit further comprises:
audio reproducing means for reproducing audio
data, and

20   wherein when a predetermined operation is
performed with the terminal unit corresponding to the
search results searched by said searching means and
displayed on said first displaying means, audio data
corresponding to a musical piece as the search results

25   is requested to the searching unit and the audio data
transmitted from the searching unit is reproduced by
said audio reproducing means.

28. The terminal unit as set forth in claim
18,

        wherein a control program for controlling the
inputting unit is transmitted to the inputting unit by
said first communicating means.

        29.   The terminal unit as set forth in claim
28,

        wherein the control program is transmitted
from the searching unit to the terminal unit and then
transmitted from the terminal unit to the inputting
unit by said second communicating means.

        30.   The terminal unit as set forth in claim
28, further comprising:

        connecting means for connecting the terminal
unit to a predetermined network,

        wherein the control program is transmitted
from the predetermined network to the terminal unit and
then transmitted from the terminal unit to the
inputting unit by said connecting means.

        31.   The terminal unit as set forth in claim
28, further comprising:

        reading means for reading data from a
predetermined record medium, and

        wherein the control program is read from the
record medium by said reading means and transmitted to
the inputting unit.

        32.   A terminal unit for causing contents

that were broadcast to be searched, comprising:

first storing means for storing time information representing predetermined time corresponding to a predetermined operation;

5
communicating means for transmitting the information representing the predetermined time to a searching unit and receiving search results from the searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a second storing

10
means corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the second storing means correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof; and

displaying means for displaying the

15
information representing the predetermined time stored in said first storing means and the search results of the searching unit.

33.   The terminal unit as set forth in claim 32,

20
wherein said displaying means displays the information representing the contents (referred to as first contents) that were broadcast at the time represented by the information representing the predetermined time and information representing

25
contents (referred to as second contents) that were broadcast earlier than those and as the search results corresponding to the information representing the

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predetermined time, the amount of second contents being a multiple of the amount of the first contents.

34. The terminal unit as set forth in claim 32,

wherein the contents are a musical piece,

wherein the terminal unit further comprises:

audio reproducing means for reproducing audio data, and

wherein when a predetermined operation is performed with the terminal unit corresponding to the search results searched by said searching means and displayed on said first displaying means, audio data corresponding to a musical piece as the search results is requested to the searching unit and the audio data transmitted from the searching unit is reproduced by said audio reproducing means.

35. A searching unit for searching contents that were broadcast, comprising:

a database for correlatively storing information representing contents and broadcast time thereof; and

a communication interface for receiving time information representing predetermined time and identification information of contents from an external unit,

wherein the information representing the contents is searched corresponding to the received time

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information representing the predetermined time and the received identification information of the contents.

36. The searching unit as set forth in claim 35,

wherein the search results are transmitted to the external unit through said communication interface.

37. A searching method for searching contents that were broadcast, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing information representing at least time at which contents were broadcast corresponding to a predetermined operation of an inputting unit to a first storing means;

(b) transmitting the information representing time stored in the first storing means to an external unit;

(c) causing a searching unit to search information representing contents stored in a second storing means corresponding to the information representing time;

(d) receiving the information representing time transmitted from the inputting unit at the first communicating step (b);

(e) transmitting the information representing time received at the second communicating step (d) and receiving search results transmitted from the searching unit;

(f) displaying the information representing

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time received at the second communicating step (d); and

(g) displaying the search results of the searching unit.

38. A searching method for searching contents that were broadcast, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving timing information representing predetermined time and identification information of contents from an external unit;

(b) searching the information representing the contents from a database corresponding to the received time information representing time and the received identification information of the contents, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof; and

(c) transmitting search results searched at the searching step (b) to the external unit.

39. A displaying method for causing a terminal unit to display search results of contents that were broadcast, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving time information representing predetermined time from an inputting unit;

(b) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time to an external unit;

(c) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time received at the first communicating step (a) to a searching unit, the

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searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof;

(d) receiving search results from the searching unit; and

(e) displaying the information representing the predetermined time received at the first communicating step (a) and the search results received at the fourth communicating step (d).

40. A displaying method for causing a terminal unit to display search results of contents that were broadcast, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing time information representing predetermined time corresponding to a predetermined operation;

(b) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a) to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof;

(c) receiving search results from the searching unit; and

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(d) displaying the information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a) and the search results of the contents received at the second communication step (c).

41. A record medium for recording a control program that causes search results of contents to be displayed on a terminal unit, the control program causing the terminal unit to perform the steps of:

(a) receiving time information representing predetermined time from an inputting unit;

(b) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time to an external unit;

(c) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof;

(d) receiving search results from the searching unit; and

(e) displaying at least the received search results.

42. A record medium for recording a control program that causes search results of contents to be displayed on a terminal unit, the control program causing the terminal unit to perform the steps of:

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(a) storing time information representing predetermined time corresponding to a predetermined operation;

(b) transmitting the information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a) to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing the predetermined time, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof;

(c) receiving search results from the searching unit; and

(d) displaying at least the search results on the terminal unit.

43. A record medium for recording a control program that causes an inputting unit to input information representing time to a researching unit, the control program causing the inputting unit to perform the steps of:

(a) storing time information representing predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

(b) transmitting the time information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a) to an external unit; and

(c) inputting the time information representing the predetermined time to a searching

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unit, the searching unit searching information

representing contents from a database corresponding to

the time information representing the predetermined

time at which contents were broadcast, the database

5   correlatively storing the information representing the

contents and broadcast time thereof.

44. The record medium as set forth in claim

43,

wherein the control program causing the

10   inputting unit to further perform the step of:

(d) displaying the number of entries of the

time information representing the predetermined time

stored at the storing step (a).

45. A record medium for recording a control

15   program that causes an inputting unit having a counter

that operates with a predetermined clock signal and

that inputs information representing time to a

searching unit, the control program causing the

inputting unit to perform the steps of:

20   (a) storing a count value of the counter at

predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

(b) transmitting the count value stored at

the storing step (a) to an external unit; and

(c) inputting the information representing

25   time to the searching unit, the searching unit

searching information representing contents from a

database corresponding to the information representing

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time at which contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

46. The record medium as set forth in claim 45, the control program causing the inputting unit to further perform the step of:

(d) displaying the number of entries of the time information representing the predetermined time stored at the storing step (a).

47. An inputting unit for inputting information representing time, comprising:

a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal;

storing means for storing a count value of said counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

a connecting portion for directly connecting the count value stored in said storing means to an external unit; and

communicating means for transmitting the count value stored in said storing means to the external unit through said connecting portion,

wherein the information representing time is input to a searching unit through the external unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing time at which contents were

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broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

48. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 47,

wherein the information representing the contents includes information about contents.

49. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 47,

wherein the predetermined time is time at which the user knows his or her desired contents.

50. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 47, further comprising:

junction means having:

a base having an attaching portion for attaching said connecting portion, the attaching portion being disposed on an upper surface of said base; and

connecting means, protruding from the attaching portion, for connecting the external unit,

wherein said communicating means transmits the count value through said junction means.

51. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 50,   wherein said junction means has a lid integrally formed with a main body of the inputting unit.

52. The inputting unit as set forth in claim

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47,   wherein the external unit is an information
terminal unit that is installed as a public unit.

        53.   An inputting unit for inputting
information representing time, comprising:

        a counter that operates with a predetermined
clock signal;

        storing means for storing a count value of
said counter at predetermined time corresponding to
user's operation;

        displaying means for displaying the count
value stored in said storing means; and

        communicating means for transmitting the
count value stored in said storing means to an external
unit,

        wherein information representing time is
input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching
information representing contents from a database
corresponding to the information representing time at
which the contents were broadcast, the database
correlatively storing the information representing the
contents and broadcast time thereof.

        54.   The inputting unit as set forth in claim
53,

        wherein the count value is represented with
spherical members on one side of said displaying means.

        55.   The inputting unit as set forth in claim
54,

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wherein when the count value is transmitted
by said communicating means, the number of spherical
members gradually decreases on one side of said
displaying means, and

5   wherein when part of the spherical members
disappears, the other spherical members move to the
positions at which the spherical members disappear.

56.   The inputting unit as set forth in claim
53,

10   wherein said displaying means is formed in an
almost square shape, and

wherein members representing the count value
are arranged in a lattice shape irrespective of the
storing order of entries of the information
15 representing time stored in said storing means.

57.   The inputting unit as set forth in claim
53,

wherein the count value is represented with
rod shaped members.

20   58.   The inputting unit as set forth in claim
53,

wherein the count value is represented as the
size of an area of said displaying means.

59.   The inputting unit as set forth in claim
25 53,

wherein the predetermined time is time at
which the user knows his or her desired broadcast

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contents.

60. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53,

wherein said communicating means transmits the count value to an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit.

61. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 53,

wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

62. An inputting unit for inputting information representing time, comprising:

a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal;

storing means for storing a count value of said counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

communicating means for transmitting the count value stored in said storing means to an external unit; and

sound generating means for generating a sound corresponding to the count value stored in said storing means,

wherein information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing time at

which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

63. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 62,

wherein said sound generating means generates a sound corresponding to the predetermined operation when the count value stored in said storing means exceeds a predetermined value.

64. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 62,

wherein said sound generating means generates a sound when the count value stored in said storing means exceeds a predetermined value and the predetermined operation is performed.

65. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 62,

wherein the predetermined time is time at which the user knows his or her desired broadcast contents.

66. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 62,

wherein said communicating means transmits the count value to an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit.

67. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 62,

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wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

68. An inputting unit for inputting information representing time, comprising:

a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal;

first storing means for storing a count value of said counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

identification information generating means for generating predetermined identification information corresponding to the user's operation;

second storing means for storing the identification information generated by said identification information generating means; and

communicating means for transmitting the count value and the identification information stored in said first storing means and said second storing means to an external unit,

wherein information representing time and identification information identifying contents are input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

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69. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68,

wherein said first storing means and said
second storing means store the count value and the
identification information to a common memory disposed
in the inputting unit.

70. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68,

wherein said first storing means and said
second storing means store the count value and the
identification information to discrete memories
disposed in the inputting unit.

71. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68, further comprising:

pressing means composed of at least one
button,

wherein said identification information
generating means detects the pressing manner of the
user against the button and generates the
identification information that varies corresponding to
the pressing manner.

72. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68, further comprising:

displaying means for displaying the count
value stored in said first storing means,

wherein said displaying means displays the
count value in a different manner that varies

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corresponding to the identification information.

73. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68,

wherein the predetermined time is time at
which the user knows his or her desired broadcast
contents.

74. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68,

wherein said communicating means transmits
the count value to an information terminal unit that is
installed as a public unit.

75. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68,

wherein the identification information
identifying the contents is information that identifies
whether the contents are television broadcast contents
or radio broadcast contents.

76. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68,

wherein the identification information
identifying the contents is information that identifies
whether the contents were broadcast in a predetermined
area or out of the predetermined area.

77. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
68,

wherein the information representing the
contents includes information about the contents.

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78. An inputting unit for inputting
information representing time, comprising:

a counter that operates with a predetermined
clock signal;

first storing means for storing a count value
of said counter at predetermined time corresponding to
user's operation;

communicating means for communicating with an
external unit and transmitting the count value stored
in said first storing means to an external unit; and

second storing means for storing data
transmitted from an external unit through said
communicating means,

wherein information representing time is
input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching
information representing contents from a database
corresponding to the information representing time at
which the contents were broadcast, the database
correlatively storing the information representing the
contents and broadcast time thereof.

79. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
78,

wherein the information representing the
contents includes information about the contents.

80. The inputting unit as set forth in claim
78,

wherein the data stored in said second

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storing means is the contents or information

thereabout.

81. The inputting unit as set forth in claim

78,

wherein the data stored in said second

storing means is compression-encoded audio data, and

wherein the inputting unit further comprises:

audio data reproducing means for decoding the

compression-encoded audio data and reproducing the

decoded audio data.

82. The inputting unit as set forth in claim

78,

wherein the data is encrypted data

corresponding to a predetermined encrypting method, and

wherein the inputting unit further comprises:

decrypting means for decrypting the encrypted

data.

83. The inputting unit as set forth in claim

78,

wherein said first storing means and said

second storing means store the count value and the data

to a common memory disposed in the inputting unit.

84. The inputting unit as set forth in claim

78,

wherein said first storing means and said

second storing means store the count value and the data

to discrete memories disposed in the inputting unit.

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85. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 78,

wherein the predetermined time is time at which the user knows his or her desired broadcast contents.

86. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 78,

wherein said communicating means transmits the count value to an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit.

87. An inputting unit for inputting information representing time, comprising:

storing means for storing time information representing predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

displaying means for displaying the number of entries of the time information stored in said storing means; and

communicating means for transmitting the time information stored in said storing means to an external unit,

wherein information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the time information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the

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contents and broadcast time thereof.

88. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 87,

wherein the predetermined time is time at which the user knows his or her desired broadcast contents.

89. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 87,

wherein said communicating means transmits the count value to an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit.

90. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 87,

wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

91. An inputting unit for inputting information representing time, comprising:

first storing means for storing time information representing predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

communicating means for communicating with an external unit and transmitting the time information stored in said first storing means to the external unit; and

second storing means for storing data transmitted from the external unit through said communicating means,

wherein information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the time information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

92. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 91,

wherein the data stored in said second storing means is the contents or information thereabout.

93. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 91,

wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

94. An inputting unit for inputting information representing time, comprising:

a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal;

storing means for storing a count value of said counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

sound generating means for generating a predetermined sound when the count value is stored to said storing means corresponding to the user's operation; and

communicating means for transmitting the count value stored in said storing means to an external unit,

wherein information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to the information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

95. The inputting unit as set forth in claim 94,

wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

96. An inputting method for an inputting unit having a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

(b) directly connecting the count value stored at the storing step (a) to an external unit; and

(c) transmitting the count value stored at the storing step (a) to the external unit connected at the connecting step (b),

wherein information representing time is input to a searching unit through the external unit,

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the searching unit searching information representing
contents from a database corresponding to time
information representing time at which the contents
were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the
information representing the contents and broadcast
time thereof.

97. The inputting method as set forth in
claim 96,

wherein the information representing the
contents includes information about the contents.

98. An inputting method for an inputting
unit having a counter that operates with a
predetermined clock signal, the method comprising the
steps of:

(a) storing a count value of the counter at
predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

(b) displaying the count value stored at the
storing step (a); and

(c) communicating the count value stored at
the storing step (a) to an external unit,

wherein information representing time is
input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching
information representing contents from a database
corresponding to time information representing time at
which the contents were broadcast, the database
correlatively storing the information representing the
contents and broadcast time thereof.

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99.   The inputting method as set forth in claim 98,

wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

100.   An inputting method for an inputting unit having a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

(b) transmitting the count value stored at the storing step (a) to an external unit; and

(c) generating a sound corresponding to the count value stored at the storing step (a),

wherein information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to time information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

101.   The inputting method as set forth in claim 100,

wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

102.   An inputting method for an inputting unit having a counter that operates with a

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predetermined clock signal, the method comprising the steps of:

    (a) storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

    (b) generating predetermined identification information corresponding to the user's operation;

    (c) storing the identification information generated at the identification information generating step (b);

    (d) transmitting the count value and the identification information stored at the first storing step (a) and the second storing step (c) to an external unit,

    wherein information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to time information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

    103. The inputting method as set forth in claim 102,

    wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.

    104. An inputting method for an inputting unit having a counter that operates with a predetermined clock signal, the method comprising the

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steps of:

(a) storing a count value of the counter at predetermined time corresponding to user's operation;

(b) communicating with an external unit and transmitting the count value stored at the first storing step (a) to the external unit; and

(c) storing the data transmitted from the external unit at the communicating step (b),

wherein information representing time is input to a searching unit, the searching unit searching information representing contents from a database corresponding to time information representing time at which the contents were broadcast, the database correlatively storing the information representing the contents and broadcast time thereof.

105. The inputting method as set forth in claim 104,

wherein the information representing the contents includes information about the contents.